

# NEWS RELEASE



RELEASED: January 8, 2008



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## NORTH CAROLINA HOGS DOWN, U.S. INVENTORY UP

All hogs and pigs on **North Carolina** farms on December 1, 2007 totaled 9.9 million head, up 4 percent from December 1, 2006, but down 3 percent from the September 1, 2007 inventory. Market hogs, at 8.87 million head, are up 4 percent from the same quarter last year, but down 3 percent from last quarter. Breeding stock totaled 1.03 million head, up 2 percent from the same quarter last year and unchanged from September 1, 2007. North Carolina ranks 2nd nationally in the total number of hogs and pigs behind Iowa.

The State's pig crop during the September – November 2007 period totaled 4.94 million head, down 2 percent from the same quarter last year. These pigs were produced by 540,000 sows, also down 2 percent from last year. Pigs saved per litter averaged 9.15, unchanged from the number of pigs saved on average last year.

North Carolina producers intend to farrow 550,000 sows during the December 2007 - February 2008 quarter and 560,000 sows during the March – May 2008 quarter.

**United States inventory** of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2007 was 65.1 million head. This was up 4 percent from December 1, 2006, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2007.

**Breeding inventory**, at 6.16 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 59.0 million head, was up 5 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

**The September-November 2007 pig crop**, at 28.0 million head, was up 4 percent from 2006 and up 7 percent from 2005. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.03 million head, up 3 percent from 2006 and up 4 percent from 2005.